

She recurred to the previous ques

tion. "Sheba knows more about Mr

how he got her father's claim, for in-

"Bully for him." On the heel

her dainty face. "You'd better ask

young woman was absorbed in his talk.

and she did not know that her coustn

the was close upon them. But at night

of the young man her eyes became

"I'm sorry I was out yesterday when

"And you were out again today. My

He inughed pleasantly, but his heart

"Mr. Macdonald has had a lot of

steel-gray ones of the older man an

ewered the challenge of his rival with

He turned to them. "Am I to con-

The color in her charge mew warm

er, but her shy clange and his fairty

gratulate Mr. Macdune

"My dear, I wish ren

The Irish girl fled

as soon as she could.

making an announcemen

"We're to be married

etly. If you are will all

Mr. Elliot."

The defeated man bowed as

As soon as his finness had go

mbling about his ears. He feet

a long stendy look. There was in

answered Gordon quietly.

night of the dinner?"

warm and kind

"I'll be back in two days. Perhaps the best catch in your set, to marry ou'll have good news for me then," Peter, who was the worst," he reo suggested.

The dark, silken lashes of her eyes sorry for it?" Terhaps," she said,

he field agent cow less of Shebn than stance-she has beard all that." he had expected, and when he did see "You told her?" or she had an abstracted manner he "No. Colby Macdonald told her. He d not quite understand. She kept to said he practically robbed her father, er own room a good deal, except when and he gave her a check for nearly two took long walks into the hills back hundred thousand to cover the cleanthe town. Dinne had a shrewd iden up from the claim and interest." that the Alaskan had put his fortune

to the test, and she not only let her cousin alone hernelf, but fended Gor-Son from her adrottly.

The third day after the dinner Edlot dropped around to the Pagets with ntent to get Sheba into a set of tenals. Dinne sat on the porch darning

"Sheba is out walking with Mr. Macshe explained in answer to a juestion as to the whereabouts of her

Gordon moodily. "He came back this morning. Shebs has gone up with him to see the Lucky you called." she told him.

Strike." "You're going to marry ber to that tuck isn't very good, is it?" was bitter. He believed Macdonald

charged. "If I can Gordon" She at darning ball into one of little Pater's

"It's what I call a c

"Is It?" Dinne smiled. Gordon understood mean he was jenlous.

"Maybe I am. That's not the point." he answered, just as if she had made her accusation in words. "Suppose you tell me what the point

is, she suggested. "He isn't good enough for her. You

know that perfectly well." "Good enough!" She shrugged ber shoulders. "What man is good enough for a nice girl, if you come to that? There are other things besides sugary goodness. Any man who is strong can make himself good enough for the woman he loves."

"Generally speaking, yes. But Colby Macdonald is different." "Thank beaven be in" she retorted

about essential teht and wrong. Miss O'Nettl is idealsuppose ou've told her, for instance, that he made his first money in the North running a dance hall."

"No, I haven't told her any such thing, because it isn't true," she re pited scornfully. "He owned an opera bouse and brought in a company of players. I dare say they danced. That's very different, as you'd know if you didn't have astigmatism of the

"Not the way the story was told me. But let that pass. Does she know that Macdonald bent her father out of one of the best ciaims on Bonanza and was indirectly responsible for his death?" "What's the use of talking nonsense. Gordon. You know you can't prove

that," his friend told him sharply. "I think I can-if it is necessary." Dinne looked across at him with an impudent little tilt of the chin. "I don't think I like you as well as I something

"Borry, because I'd like you just as I low wanted war, he did not need to well. Dinne, if you would stop trying wait long for H. to manage your cousin into a marriage "Time count fur that w at will spell her life," he answered O'Nelli and I have the whole Arche "The happiness of Miss winter before as he steries." O'Noill is of very great importance to The muscles in the lean jame of the

"Do you menn--?" Wide-eyed, she looked her question straight at him. "That's just what I mean. Dane."

t had occurred to Dinne before that erhane Gordon might be in love with belo. but she had put the thought rom her because she did not want to believe it.

"That's different, Gordon. It explains and in a way excuses your uning here and trying to builty me." he stopped her work to flash a queson at him. "Don't you think that saybe it's only a fancy of yours?

irl I ever met that suited me. Every- | O'Netll speaks for us 75th, ing the does is right. Every move Elliot." he makes is wonderful."

The eyes with which she looked at very much. The chances see went to be for the true comance. the house, the Scotsman left. sat down in a porch chair and

I'd trust her with Colby Macdenald." "Play fair, Diane. Tell her the truth about this Indian woman and let your frot name, he woulded all over like a cousin decide for herself. You can't pleased puppy

do less, can you?" minded her. "Have you ever been "You ought to be ashamed of yourself, mission. He assured her eagerly that Gordon Elliot. You take all the gos- there was no trouble too great for him grapel truth just because you want to her. Their heads were close to Macdonald than you think. And about to believe the worst about Mr. Mac- whispered talk for a few minutes, at donald. Colby Macdonald is too big the end of which Dustin left the room of the Bring room and usbered them and too aggressive not to have made with his chin in the air. He was a hundreds of enemies. His life has been taight errant to the employ of the

building up this country. Yet you'd boat he found Oliver Dustin was a felthink he had a cloven boof to hear tow passenger. The little man smoked some people talk. I've no patience an occasional cigar with the land agent this he flung a question at her. "Did Macdonald ask her to marry him the

Gordon said in an even votce, Just as big bend. if he were answering a question. "She Not till a week later did Elliot reis young and good-looking for an in- turn up the river. He was asleep at together, Macdonald and Sheba. The just like Macdonaid."

> binness. There's nothing to that. But been be came upon a real surprise suppose his life was irregular years when he found Metectse and her little ago. This isn't Boston. It used to be boy Column seated upon a box on the the fringe of civilization. Men did as lower deck where freight for local they pleased in the early days."

was examining the Kamatiah coul field. Slipped behind them and the two still does." Diane rose and looked storm- he was hurrying away from the Indian | ence is requisite to a full knowledge "We've had such a good wath." She- ily down at her friend. "You're about woman. have beard Mr. Macdonald telling me see that even if it's true, all that is Kusiak passengers at the river june how he had a chance to save a small done with? It is a part of his past- tion. The field agent was not the only and it's finished-tradden underfoot

can't cut loose entirely from his past. and the boy got off at Kusink, he could very interesting experiences. You must past isn't good enough for Shebs our Wally talking with her. get him to tell you about all of them." O'Nettl."

> enough for their wives? Colby Macdehald to good enough for any wome alive if he loves her enough." "You don't know him."

> "I know him far better than you do. He is the biggest man I know, and now that he is in love with a good woman he'll rice to his chance."

Elliot rose and looked across at the law was set when he turned it back toward Diage. "She ten't going to marry him if

can help it," he said quietly. He walked out of the gate and down the walk toward his hotel. A message was waiting for him there

from his chief in Scattle. It called him women who is the father of her boy. What does it mean?" down the river on business.

CHAPTER XII.

tenevieve Mallery Takes a Hand. Inside of an hour the news of the agagement of Macdonald was all over Kusiak. It was through a triephone receiver that the gossip was bursed to Mrs. Mallory by a friend who owed her a little stab. The voice of Gene viewe Mullory registered faint amusement, but as some as she had hung up. her face fell into baggard lines. She had staked a year of her waning youth on winning the big mining man of Kusiak, together with all the money that she had been able to scrape up for the campaign outfit. Moreover, she

Mrs. Mallory sat down in the hall beside the telephone, her fingers inced that if Sheba O'Netil had not come on the scene. Macdonald would have neked her to marry him. He had been moving slowly toward her for months They understood each other and were at case together. Between them was a

estrong physical affinity. Then Dinne Paget had brought in this olim, young cousin of hers and Colby Macdonald had been fascinated by the me mentery of her innocent youth. Mrs. Mallory was like steel beneath the soft be possible to startle the girl into

orenking the engagement. But before she made any move Mrs. be through my business before bear. It was like her to go to head anto guarters for information. She Macdonald on the wire.

It came to him after a time that aba Mrs. Paget was distinctly annoyed. was considering him for a confidential threatened desens of times. But he most attractive woman north of fifty-

and aired his views on politics and af-"The woman's name is Metectse," fairs social. He left the boat at the

"People are always tracing resem- board during the night. In the after-

"This wasn't in the early days. It ! His guess was that they were local was five years ago, when Macdonald bassengers, but wharf after wharf

A man sumed with curtosity, and when she showed him an envelope which evi-Diane tapped her little foot impa- dently had an address written upon it. DR. J. EARLE GILFILLAN

> Since leaving Kusink nearly two Gordon of Shebs. As soon as he had fluished dinner at the botel, he walked Sudiersville out to the Paget house and sent in

Sheba stepped forward and let in an Indian woman with a little boy cling ing to her hand.

"You Miss O'Netll?" she asked.

From the folds of her shawl she made, but all moneys loaned by the drew a letter. The girl ginneed at the League are secured by first mortgage address, then opened and read what on real estate Loans will be made was written. She looked up, puzzled, to buy or build a home, improve city first at the comety, flat-footed India woman and afterward at the handsome little brown-faced papeose. She turned to Gordon.

"This letter says I am to ask this Gordon knew instantly what it

meant, though he could not guess who had dealt the blow. The impulse to



What Does It Mean?"

and not recognize Colby Macdonald re-"What is your name?" asked Shebe

sip of a crack-brained old idlot for to take if he could be of any service serves the folds of the ladian woman's "Chane!" Shebe Rung open the door

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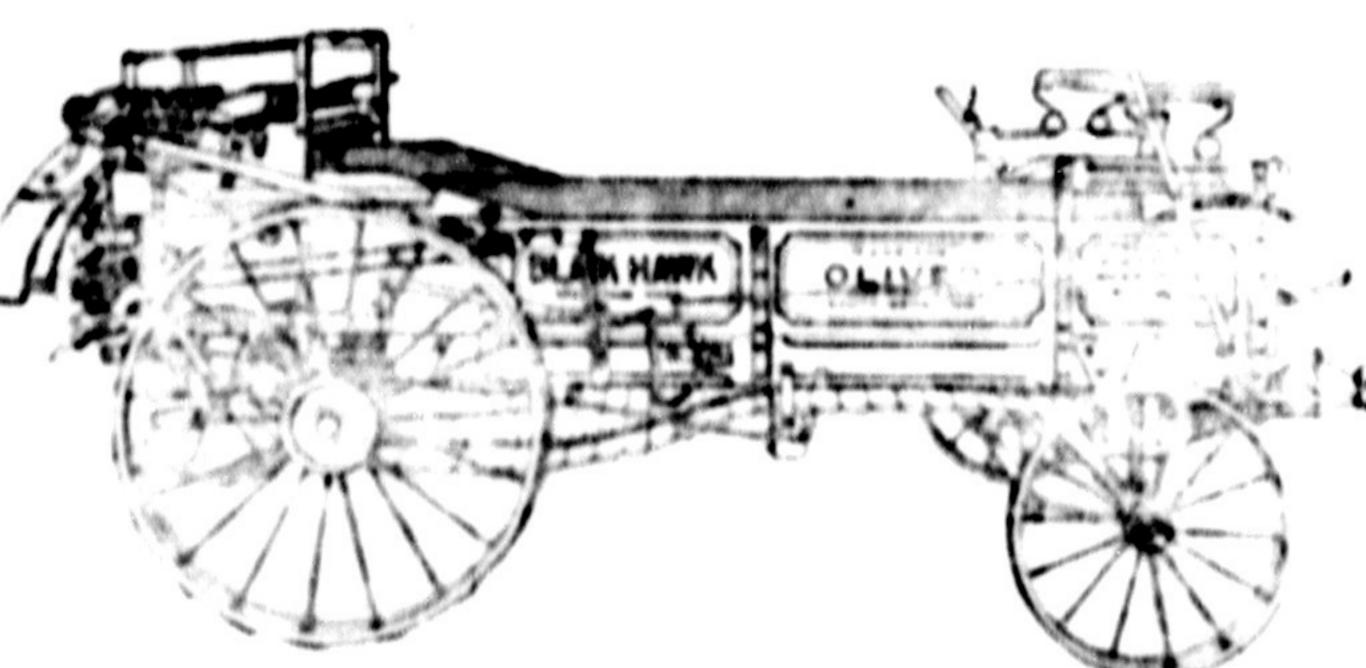
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